Christopher Todd's Case

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THE CASE OF Christopher Todd,

And several OTHERS,

Relating to the great Hardships *and* Abuses *they have Receiv'd from*

CHARLES EATON,

Captain Lieutenant to the Right Honourable

The Earl of Orford;

And several Misdemeanors Committed by the said Captain, to the great Prejudice of his Majesty's Service, humbly offered to the Consideration of the Knights, Citizens, *and* Burgesses *in* Parliament *Assembled.*

THE said *Christopher Todd*, who Mounted himself Three several Times, at his own Charge, in the Troop, which is now Commanded by the said Captain *Eaton*, and likewise paid Ten Pounds towards the Remounting others in the said Troop, but received no Benefit himself on that Account; who, after Application made to the Honourable the Commissioners of Accompts, for Relief in the great Abuse and Injury received in the Accompts of their *Irish* Arrears, and for objecting against the evil Practices of the said Captain, he was disgracefully put out of His Majesty's Service by the said Captain; who, by vertue of his Commission, fraudulently took away the said *Christopher Todds* Horse, which he hath since Sold as his owne, for Sixteen Pounds.

That on the *7th.* of *January* 1695. *James Mitchell*, of the said Troop, being under Confinement, for refusing to pay 10 *s. per* Week, for 12. Weeks that his Horse was kept in Capt. *Eatons* Stable; was offered, That (if he would declare the said *Christopher Todd* had corrupted him to speak what he was to affirm against the said Capt. *Eaton* at the Court Martial) it would be better for him: But he being Conscious to himself, that he could not in Justice assert any such thing; and accordingly refusing so to do, was immediately sent to the *Martials*, and loaded with Irons made on purpose for him; and so continued for the space of Eleven Days, in so miserable a Condition that he could hardly walk in the said Prison, until such time as the Honourable *Robert Harley* Esq; spoke on his Behalf to the Secretary of War: After which he was Discharged from the said Confinement, upon his being Disgraced at the head of the Regiment, and obliged to ask Forgiveness on his Knees Three several times, altho he knew not wherein he had Offended.

That in the Year 1693. Capt. *Eaton* defrauded Mr. *Thomas Brushfield* of Fifty Pounds, who was to have made it Sixty *Guineas*, for being Clark to the Troop; but the said Captain not performing his Agreement with him, did propose (for the Advance of so much more Money as would make up the aforesaid Sum Eighty Pounds) to procure him a Commission to be Lieutenant of Foot; which he never performed, but directed him to hire Horses to Muster in his Troop, which he did accordingly, and once Mustered on the said Capt. Coach-Horse.

That in *May* 1695. One *John Stear* was hired by Capt. *Eaton's* Clerk, to Muster in his Troop for Five Shillings; being told by the said Clerk it was for another Man: That he did actually Muster; And in *July* 1695 he was Mustered as absent upon Furlow, altho he was not in Truth absent from his Family (where he was at first found) nor knew anything of his being so Mustered.

The said Captain hath Mustered one *John Palmer*, knowingly by a wrong Name; his first Muster being in *May* 1694. but he never came into Quarters or performed Duty, or appear'd with any Horse of his own, until he was inform'd against in *September* 1695.

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The ſaid Captain did enter in the Muſter-Rolls of *March*, *May*, *July*, and *September* 1693. the Names of *William Dreage*, *Richard Johnſon*, *James Collings*, *Henry Chanell*, and *Francis Thackleſton*, who were never known to do Duty, or belong to the Troop.

That the ſaid Captain did enter the Names of *Andrew Bayley*, *Daniel Johnſon*, *Philip Wagleſtaff*, *William White*, *John Lucous*, *William Watters*, and *John Beard* in the Muſter-Rolls of *May*, *July*, *September*, and *November* 1693. as abſent; tho they never did once appear at the Muſters, or were known to belong to the Troop.

That the ſaid Captain hath from *February* 92. to *July* 95. had Money advanced by the King for Twenty Horſes, which with 450 *l.* by him ſtopped and received out of the Soldiers Money, under pretence of Mounting them, amounts to the Sum of 700 *l.* Out of which he hath only bought 14 indifferent Horſes.

The ſaid Captain did ſtop out of the Subſiſtance of each Soldier in his Troop Six Pence *per* Week, for 26 Weeks, when in Country Quarters, from *September* 93. contrary to Order, or the Practice of any other Officer in the Regiment.

That the ſaid Capt. hath kept *William Jourding* in his Troop unmounted for 20 Months, *viz.* from *May* 94. and (to excuſe his Abſence at the Muſters) often Muſterd him as Sick when he was not ſo; on the Account of geting Three Fifths of his Pay the whole time.

That he hath turned out of the Troop ſeveral good Soldiers that did great Service both in *Flanders* and *Ireland*, who could get no Account of their *Iriſh* Arrears from their former Capt. but were reduced to great Want, and one of them had in all probability periſhed, had not the private Soldiers made a Collection for him: And moreover the ſaid Capt. under pretence of Cuſtom, took away the Horſes of ſuch fit Perſons, whom he ſo diſcharged, and took in ſeveral other Perſons that were unfit for the Service; that they might buy in more Horſes to the Troop.

That the ſaid Capt. did ſtop Seven Weeks whole Pay from one *Thomas Bello* of the ſaid Troop in *Feb.* 92. and afterwards did take the Horſe of the ſaid *Tho. Bello*, a Journy to the *Bath* for 8 Weeks, and upon his Return the ſaid Horſe was ſo much damaged, that he was not judged worth more than Three Pounds, and yet did make the ſaid *Tho. Bello* pay out of his Subſiſtance, the Charge of his Keeping for all the ſaid time.

That the ſaid Capt. hath Muſter'd his Coachman and Groom as effectual Soldiers, altho they never appear to do Service in the Troop; the ſaid Groom having been conſtantly Muſtered on the ſaid Capt. Coach-horſe, and that the ſaid Capt. hath affirmed him to be an effective Soldier; and ſaith, That in regard he is a careful Man, he keeps him to look after the Horſes of ſuch Men as are negligent therein, altho the ſaid Capt. hath obliged ſeveral of his Troop to bring their Horſes to his Stable, and makes them pay Ten Shillings and Six Pence *per* Week for their Keeping, that ſo he may puniſh thoſe to whom he takes a Diſlike: It being properly the Corporals Buſineſs in all *Regiments of Light Horſe*, to ſee that the Soldiers do take due Care of their Horſes.

All which Practices are of ſuch ill Conſequences to the Government, eſpecially at this time, when His Majeſty ſtands in ſo great need of being well ſerved, that it doth wholly diſcourage ſeveral fit Perſons from coming into His Majeſty's Service: The Remedy whereof is humbly left to the Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe, for the preventing the ſaid great and growing Evils, by ſuch Means as in Your abundant Wiſdoms ſhall ſeem meet.